

LESSONS OF SCORES AT ROYAL AUCTION

Remarkable Swings in the
Crescent Tournament at
Duplicate.

MOOT POINTS DECIDED

The Whist club has lately made some interesting decisions on points that are continually coming up in play and has sent them to THE SUN, through its chairman, Milton C. Work, for publication to the benefit of auction players at large.

C. W. Work states this case: The dealer, Z, starts with a bid, "No bid," B says, "I pass." Under the impression that B has bid hearts Z says two spades. Although his attention is called to the fact that his opponents insist that the declaration is now two spades, which they are at liberty to double or overcall, as it respects the bidding.

Here is the decision of the committee: "The laws provide that the declaration becomes final when it is passed by three players in the case of the case cited this happens after the declaration of one spade. It having become final, it is not in the power of the original declarer to alter it."

This is not the first time the situation described has arisen in play. The writer was present not long ago when an original bid of "No bid" was passed by three players and the declarer then remarked that he guessed he should have bid two clubs, whereupon his opponents made him sit up and listen. He was not willing to take a risk of one club only.

Here is a rather common case, with a peculiar ending. B gives the facts this way: Z is the dealer and starts with two diamonds. Not noticing the "two," A sitting second hand, says "clubs." The dealer, Z, says, "I refuse to make it three. I bid two hearts." The opponents insist that Y having called attention to the mistake, B must first be made sufficient, and Y must then bid three hearts to overcall it.

The decision of the committee is that the expression "Not enough" does not call attention to the fact that the irregularity has been noticed, but is not a demand that it be corrected. Y is not bound to correct the mistake. The laws give him the option of accepting the bid as regular and either passing or overcalling it. Y is therefore within his rights in bidding two hearts.

Here is an almost similar case: The dealer, Z, bids two diamonds and A overcalls him second hand with two clubs. B, who is A's partner, says, "I refuse to make it three. I bid two hearts." The two questions are involved here: Does the bid of two hearts stand, and is there any penalty against A's partner for calling attention to an error made by his own side?

The committee decides that B's remark does not subject him to any penalty. If A did not take his partner's hint and increase the club declaration before Y bid the two hearts, then the two heart bid must stand.

It has often been a question as to whether the partner could correct an insufficient bid, so as to avoid the penalty of being himself barred from bidding if the intervening player should correct it and pass.

SOME DUPLICATE FACTS.

The very ably managed game that took place at the Crescent Athletic Club on January 14 under the direction of Chairman W. B. Segur of the tournament committee was one of the most interesting duplicate card games ever played. It was a game of some remarkable facts—facts that should give pause to overconfident players who imagine that between equals results should be about alike.

There were twenty-five deals played, the total score on each pair of deals played being as follows: 1. 100, 2. 100, 3. 100, 4. 100, 5. 100, 6. 100, 7. 100, 8. 100, 9. 100, 10. 100, 11. 100, 12. 100, 13. 100, 14. 100, 15. 100, 16. 100, 17. 100, 18. 100, 19. 100, 20. 100, 21. 100, 22. 100, 23. 100, 24. 100, 25. 100.

The result was a possibility of making a number of comparisons, which led to the regret that it had not been as feasible to record the final declarations as well as the scores. An inspection of the table of total scores will probably astonish those who do not realize the big swings that are continually occurring at the bridge table.

The E and W hands were the stronger all through. The following table shows the highest scores made on each pair of deals all through the tournament. If the highest score made by the E and W players at any table was let us say 205, the lowest score on the same deals may have been a pair score for the E and W players. If this score is 127 we get a difference or swing of 632 points on those two deals alone.

If all the plus scores are on one side the swing must be the difference between the best and the worst of those scores. Suppose 405 is the best score and 154 the worst; the swing must have been the smallest loss for the other side, so we call the N and S hands 154 minus and deduct it from the 405 made by E and W, leaving a swing of 251, as shown by deals 7 and 8, on which N and S pair made a plus.

The column to the right shows the extreme differences or swings on each pair of deals.

Deals	N & S	E & W	Diff.
1-2	205	427	632
3-4	525	350	875
5-6	248	246	594
7-8	154	409	255
9-10	155	214	369
11-12	127	303	440
13-14	525	570	1095
15-16	185	528	555
17-18	129	378	517
19-20	325	444	779
21-22	50	257	207
23-24	424	135	289
25-26	621	399	1020
Total swing			7605

If we divide this total, 7605, by the number of deals played, which was 26, we get an average swing of 292 points a hand. It used to be thought rather remarkable if there was an average difference of a single trick a deal in whist. What must we think of a steady average of the value of 30 tricks at no trump, or 50 tricks at clubs, on each deal played at auction?

To many persons such a difference in results may seem incredible, especially among players of about equal class, but individual judgment has as much to do with the results at auction, especially judgment of the opponents and their style of play, and this judgment leads to such tremendous variations in the bidding and the play that enormous differences in the resulting scores are not to be wondered at.

Every card in these deals was recorded and some of the most remarkable deals will be published from time to time in THE SUN. Take the biggest swing in the whole tournament, a difference of 1,095 points on deals No. 13 and 14. It might be imagined that these must have been two very unfortunate hands, each showing a big loss, whereas

the fact is that all but nine of these 1,095 points were won and lost on the first deal, No. 13. Here it is, dealer sitting north.

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

At one table Z bid no trump and A passed. He has the lead; why should he frighten the no trump into some safer contract? A and B hearts and B, who now thought he had the lead, passed. So did Z. But now A thought he should show his suit, so he bid two hearts. Z, who was not to be outwitted, bid back to two no trumps so as to get his guarded spade king led up to him.

When it got round to B he helped the spades once, and that drove Y back to four hearts, as he could trump spades, and read his partner for protection in the suit as well. Needless to say A doubled the four hearts. The student of bidding tactics may safely be sure to figure out these errors for himself.

B led the king of clubs. A won it and immediately led a trump. In the hope of protecting his diamonds Y led a second round of trumps. On these two tricks B discarded the eight of spades and the six of diamonds. The next lead from dummy was the ace of diamonds, which A trumped and B completed the echo with the five, marking him with the king.

A did not allow the damage he could by leading the queen of trumps, getting a spade discard from B. Then he returned the ten of clubs, and Y had to ruff the next club lead, which he dared not lead with nothing established, so he won with the ace of trumps.

B won this and forced out Y's last trump with a club. This was the last trick for Y or Z, as the two long trumps, being spades, had been in the clubs. Down for 400, less simple honors.

At another table Y and Z played this hand at four diamonds, doubled and set one, through the dealer's refusal to fluster the queen of trumps (when it did not cover it, because he had ten spades).

At still another table when Z bid no trump, A bid two hearts, which Y doubled, and B took him out with three clubs. Z, appearing to be in a bad way, was forced bid and that Y must have some clubs to double the hearts, so he went back to two trumps, bidding three, which A doubled.

A imagined Z must have the clubs stopped, so he did not lead that suit, but started his own club suit, and the queen and returned the king of clubs. Of course A put up the ace and returned the ten, to unblock.

At a fourth table B had the ace and seventh club trick Z has discarded down to the ace king of hearts, ace and small in diamonds and the king of spades. The next lead from dummy was the ace of diamonds, which A trumped and B won the last trick of all with the king of diamonds, after giving Z the spade trick. This set that contract for 500, less simple honors.

No. 14 was not quite as bad, and the only reason that the swing on these two deals was so great was that one was a game and the other was a loss. It was that what was lost on one was picked up on the other by several pairs. No. 14 was a good illustration of the importance of giving due weight to partner's silence, a subject that was discussed at length in these articles on October 10 last. The dealer in this hand sat east.

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

At one table Z passed without a bid. There are no tops in the heart suit and there will be plenty of time to bid it on the second round. What A passed was a diamond. This headed off B, who was all ready to say no trumps, so he contented himself with bidding a heart.

Z passed, and A was fussy enough to judge that Y would go on with the diamonds, so he did not deny the hearts. The result was a very interesting one, as to be a large number of persons who cannot see that if they have only one card of the opponents' suit, either the opponents have that suit all between them and will bid it to the limit, or else their partner has it bottled up and is sitting tight. If that is not it, and he still refuses to assist your bid, he has nothing at all, and you are in wrong.

Of course Y was left to play it at two diamonds and win down 150 and simple honors. If Y will only pay more attention to his partner's silence, they will set that heart contract for 400 and simple honors, instead of losing 154 themselves on the diamond contract.

At one table Z started with two hearts, and A said two spades. Then he led the heart on account of his outside tricks Z thought he had the tops in hearts, and that they could save the game against the spade winner. B bid three. He was confirmed in this belief when Y doubled three spades, but he woke up when A made his contract, Y and Z losing 24 points, 26 honors and 125 for the game.

At another table when Y assisted the hearts B doubled, and A went no trump. Y led the ace of diamonds (instead of the heart and set up four tricks for A. Then B won the next lead, the ten of clubs, as he covered the ten with the queen, and Z held up, wondering why his partner did not lead a heart if he had one.

Y won the spade lead that followed and another club, but there was nothing in the hand then except the ace Jack, so that A went game at no trumps. If Y leads his partner's suit, in spite of the double A must play for the spades, and if Y wins the spade and leads a low diamond, which cannot lose anything, Z clears the hearts, holding A down to four spade tricks and two hearts, which sets the contract.

Few players realize the strength of leading a suit when one opponent has denied it. Look at this hand, No. 16 at the Crescent, dealer west:

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Z dealt and said no bid. A heart, which Z passed, and B took his own out with no trumps. Without a heart in his hand Z bid two clubs, and B went two no trumps. In spite of his partner's silence Z went to three clubs, just because he could trump the hearts, paying no attention to the denial of A's suit by B's going to no trumps.

Now what is Y to do? Bid three no trumps? He has passed twice and thinks that is enough. Of course Z goes down for 300 after B's double. Had Z kept still Y must get in and make four hearts, a spade and a diamond, which saves the game in any case and sets the two no trump contract.

PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN' READERS TO SOLVE

A Seven Carder Composed by
the Late W. H. Whitfield Re-
called by His Death.

PUZZLE OF THE SQUARES

Bridge problem No. 351, by R. C. Mankowicz, proved to be a pleasing opening for the present series, and the aspirants for the next honor list seem to have given it more than usual attention. The position is an excellent object lesson in the importance of being able to put either hand in the lead with the trumps, whether there seems to be any occasion for such a precaution or not. Here is the distribution:

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
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♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
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♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
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♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

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♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

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♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
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♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

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♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

ber 15, 1856. He studied at Cambridge, and was one of the local examiners at that university for many years, his specialty being the higher mathematics. He was exactly the type of a mathematician in sedentary pursuits. Whitfield was an all round outdoor man. While at college he won both the freshman and Trinity high jump contests in the same year, and was one of the famous rowing crew known as the "Ancient Mariner." He was a fine swimmer and an expert croquet player. Golfers may be interested to know that he was on the official handicap list at 8.

There are two problems with which the name of Whitfield will always be associated, one of which is known simply as the "Whitfield," while the other is usually referred to as No. 351, being its position in Bergholt's "Double Dummy Bridge Problems." The first is a six card problem, the other is a seven carder, in which there are four trumps in one hand, none in any of the other hands. Both are the old style "take all" problems. Every one who has seen one sends one or other of these to THE SUN, with the suits changed around, as an original with the sender.

One of the thirty-one years ago to-day that the famous six carder was sent to "Cavendish," who printed it in the following Saturday, January 31, 1885. In the field, and many are the stories of the distinguished players of those days that gave it up as impossible.

CHECKER ENDINGS.
All sorts and conditions of checker players had an easy time of it with the first of the present series, No. 351, which was not intended to be difficult, but rather to be encouraging, so many of the problems in the last ten having been apparently entirely beyond the powers of the average player.

The distribution of the pieces in No. 351 was: Black men on 5 and 22; kings on 26 and 32. White men on 13, 20, 27 and 28; king on 3. White to play and win. Here are the moves that solve:

1-7 26-19
2-10 32-23
3-11 23-14
4-12 14-13
5-13 13-12
6-14 12-11
7-15 11-10
8-16 10-9
9-17 9-8
10-18 8-7
11-19 7-6
12-20 6-5
13-21 5-4
14-22 4-3
15-23 3-2
16-24 2-1
17-25 1-0
18-26 0-26
19-27 26-25
20-28 25-24
21-29 24-23
22-30 23-22
23-31 22-21
24-32 21-20
25-33 20-19
26-34 19-18
27-35 18-17
28-36 17-16
29-37 16-15
30-38 15-14
31-39 14-13
32-40 13-12
33-41 12-11
34-42 11-10
35-43 10-9
36-44 9-8
37-45 8-7
38-46 7-6
39-47 6-5
40-48 5-4
41-49 4-3
42-50 3-2
43-51 2-1
44-52 1-0
45-53 0-26
46-54 26-25
47-55 25-24
48-56 24-23
49-57 23-22
50-58 22-21
51-59 21-20
52-60 20-19
53-61 19-18
54-62 18-17
55-63 17-16
56-64 16-15
57-65 15-14
58-66 14-13
59-67 13-12
60-68 12-11
61-69 11-10
62-70 10-9
63-71 9-8
64-72 8-7
65-73 7-6
66-74 6-5
67-75 5-4
68-76 4-3
69-77 3-2
70-78 2-1
71-79 1-0
72-80 0-26
73-81 26-25
74-82 25-24
75-83 24-23
76-84 23-22
77-85 22-21
78-86 21-20
79-87 20-19
80-88 19-18
81-89 18-17
82-90 17-16
83-91 16-15
84-92 15-14
85-93 14-13
86-94 13-12
87-95 12-11
88-96 11-10
89-97 10-9
90-98 9-8
91-99 8-7
92-100 7-6
93-101 6-5
94-102 5-4
95-103 4-3
96-104 3-2
97-105 2-1
98-106 1-0
99-107 0-26
100-108 26-25
101-109 25-24
102-110 24-23
103-111 23-22
104-112 22-21
105-113 21-20
106-114 20-19
107-115 19-18
108-116 18-17
109-117 17-16
110-118 16-15
111-119 15-14
112-120 14-13
113-121 13-12
114-122 12-11
1